scan
SHANKILL COMMUNITY AREA NEWSLETTER
dec 2025

Woodbrook College Gives Back This Christmas

CONTACT scan

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If you have any comments on any article or wish to contact us our details are:

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In This Issue...

03 Community
04 Christmas Messages
06 Shankill GAA
07 SSRA
08 Shankill Bowling Club
09 Shankill FC
10 Celebrating One Year of Monthly Book Sales: A Tradition Renewed
11 Brady's of Shankill Golf Society
12 Local History Society
13 • Rathmichael Historical Society
• Shankill Seniors Centre
14 SAGE
15 Finance Corner
16 Shankill & Ballybrack CFR
20 Vitamin D
21 Update from... *Cormac Devlin TD*
22 Shankill Men's Shed
23 Ask a Councillor: *Cllr. Jim Gildea*
24 School News: *Woodbrook College*
25 Ask a Councillor: *Cllr. Carrie Smyth*
26 School News: *Scoil Mhuire*
28 School News: *Rathmichael National School*
30 School News: *St Anne's National School*
31 Shankill Tidy Towns
33 Saoire Radaireachta

EDITORIAL

There is much of interest this month. We include information on Christmas Church services, the newly formed Shankill Men's Shed, a tradition renewed in the monthly book sale, the Responsibility poem by Osgood in the SAGE page is worth considering and lots more. Of course our politicians Jim Gildea, An Cathaoirleach, Cormac Devlin TD and Councillor Carrie Smyth keep us informed of developments in the area for which we are most grateful. Sincere apologies but due to lack of space in this Christmas edition we had to omit the Planning Notices. We very much appreciate the time and effort Jim Gildea, gives to compiling the Planning Notices each month for Scan

In the November issue Kevin O'Donoghue asked if anyone knew the name of the Rock on Shankill beach which was depicted in the painting of his which we featured. It appears the Rock has been given a variety of names. The following are two of the responses we received:

"If I am correct this rock was known as the 'Queen's Rock' when friends & myself swam during the summers of the late '50's early '60's. Situated approximately 50m out from the high tide mark on the Corbawn beach, it was a popular diving rock when the top was just visible, maybe 20/25 yards out and the water 4/5feet deep. We always checked the tide times so as to know the best time for swimming. Brings back happy memories".
– Willie Smith, Assumpta Park.

"It was always called the Summer of 77 Rock in our home in Corbawn Grove, days spent on the beach that year just having moved in to Shankill".
– Emma.

We wish our readers, advertisers, contributors and distributors a very happy Christmas and every good wish for 2026. Thank you all for your support throughout the year.

LISTENING EAR - SUPPORT NETWORK FOR SEPARATED AND DIVORCED PEOPLE

Support NetworkNetwork for Separated and Divorced People. The Network is open to persons of any faith and none. Meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of every month from 7.30 – 9p.m. in the Resource Centre. Please note, there will be no meeting in January 2026 due to the Resource Centre being closed for refurbishment works. We hope to resume meeting in February but this is dependent on the refurbishment works being completed by the 10th February 2026.

You are welcome to contact **087 3646067** or email ***listeningear14@gmail.com*** and a supportive compassionate person in the network will respond and together you can discuss how we can be of help to you.

Complete confidentiality is guaranteed and everyone will be warm and friendly.

SHANKILL DAY CARE CENTRE BOOK SALE

The next book sale will be held on Saturday December 6th. The following one will be held on 3rd January.

Venue: Shankill Day Care Centre, Lower Road, Shankill. 10:00am – 1:00pm. See article on Celebrating One Year of Monthly Book Sales: A Tradition Renewed.

BETHANY BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

St. Anne's Resource Centre Shankill

If you are grieving the loss of someone special or have had a loss of any kind and would like to talk to someone, Bethany Bereavement offer free support to adults, with sympathy and compassion in confidence.

We have a drop-in service on the first Friday of each month at 10.30 am or if you prefer, we can meet with you in person. Just call the **01 282 2704** to arrange.

AA MEETINGS SHANKILL

Alcoholics Anonymous hosts meetings in Crinken Church Parish Hall every Monday at 8.30 p.m. and in St. Anne's Community Centre (beside St. Anne's Church) every Sunday at 8.30 pm. Doors open around 8.15 pm. A welcome awaits you.

SVP SHANKILL CONFERENCE

Do you need our help?
You can call us directly at 087-696 2785. Alternately, call **01 855 0022** or go online at ***www.svp.ie.***

CLASSICAL MUSIC CLUB

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 10th December. Venue: Shankill Day Care Centre, Lower Road, Shankill. (100m from the main street, car parking available). Time 7:45 pm - 10:00pm, including tea break.

Come along and enjoy some lovely music, a cuppa and chat.

The music will be a varied programme of classical music on CDs covering many genres (orchestral, instrumental, vocal, opera etc.) in a friendly setting. Visitors and new and returning members are always welcome. Charge is €2 on the night (waived for first visit). For further info phone or text Malcolm at **085 852 8216.**

SHANKILL LIBRARY

Activities in Shankill Library for December 2025.

1) Children's Art Workshop with Kim Jenkinson on December 4th at 3.30pm. Suitable for age 7 - 10 years.
   Booking: *shankilllib@dlrcoco.ie* or Tel: 01 2047224

2) "Family Time at your Library" - "Woven Christmas Tree Workshop" with Wicklow Willow on Thursday 11th December @ 3pm - 4.30pm.
   Booking: *shankilllib@dlrcoco.ie* or Tel: 01 2047224

3) Christmas Crafting & Card-making for Adults - Friday 12th December @ 11am.
   Booking essential *shankilllib@dlrcoco.ie*

4) Christmas Storytime on Wednesday 17th December @ 3pm. Suitable for Ages 3 - 6 years.

5) Angel Making for Children on Thursday 18th December @ 3.30pm Suitable for Age: 4 - 8 yrs.
   Booking essential *shankilllib@dlrcoco.ie.*

Christmas MESSAGES

ST. ANNE'S PARISH

Thursday 11th December
7:30pm School Carol Service in St Anne's Church

Sunday 14th December
8:00pm Carols by Candlelight with Habemus Chamber Choir, St.Anne's Church.
Tickets €10 each at the door. Mulled wine and mince pies in the Resource Centre from 7:00-7:45pm. Proceeds to St. Anne's Parish.

Tuesday 16th December
7:30pm Penitential Services
St. Anne's Church Shankill

Wednesday 17th December
7:30pm Our Lady of Good Counsel, Johnstown

Christmas Eve - Follow the Star Christmas Procession
Join us for a Special Christmas Procession to celebrate the light of Christ in our lives. We encourge participants to bring battery-operated lights, candles, or lanterns to illuminate the way. The procession will begin at the Quinn's Road/ Cherrington roundabout, with participants assembling from 5:15pm. It will set off at 5:40pm and finish at St. Anne's Church, where the crib will be blessed and the Children's Mass will take place.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST. ANNE'S CHURCH
Wednesday 24th December
6:00pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

Thursday 25th December
9:00am & 11:00am Christmas Day Mass

All of us in the Parish Office, wish you & your loved ones a very Happy & Joyful Christmas!

Shankill Bible Church

Sunday 14th December
6:00pm Christmas Carol Service Sunday

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day
10:30am Christmas Service

Sunday 28th December
10:30am Sunday Service

Venue: Glenmaris, Eaton Wood Grove, D18WK27

CHURCH OF IRELAND PARISH OF RATHMICHAEL

Saturday 13th December
'Nativity Express' Christmas Family Event

Sunday 14th December
11:00am Service to mark the 161st Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church
7:00pm Blue Christmas

Sunday 21st December
11:00am Sunday Club Christmas Party
4:00pm Traditional Carol Service

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 25th December
4.00pm 'Jingle & Joy' - Family Carols
9.00pm The First Communion of Christmas

Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December
9:30am Holy Communion
11:00am Family Service

You are cordially invited to join us at any or all of these services.

ST. JAMES'S CRINKEN CHURCH

Friday 5th & Saturday 6th December: 10:00am - 9:00pm
Sunday 7th December: 2:00pm - 8:00pm
Christmas Tree Festival (The Christmas Story in Trees)

Saturday 13th December
5:00pm Lantern Walk

Sunday 21st December
10:30am Nativity Service
6:30pm Carol Service

Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day
9:30am Christmas Day Communion Service
10:30am Christmas Service

Sunday 28th December
10:30am Morning Praise

Merry Christmas Shankill!

Jennifer CARROLL MACNEILL TD

Minister for Health

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FINE GAEL

Stonebridge Road is Blooming
As we look forward to the new year the good news is that the newly sown grass is growing away at a ferocious rate and is looking brilliant. However, it will be some considerable time, possibly 12 months or more before the pitch is handed back to the club for use. It will be worth the wait because we will have one of the best playing surfaces in Dublin if not in in the whole of the country. Currently with only the Cliffs and the distant pitch in Ticknick available for our 45 teams playing matches and training presents lots of problems. How our fixture secretary Marc has remained sane is nothing short of a miracle. Well done Marc we all love you.

Mile Buíochas. Thank You
It has been another brilliant year of action and progress in our club because of the support of the community of the Village of Shankill. Our players, coaches, parents and supporters, the teachers and staff of our schools St Annes, Rathmichael, Scoil Mhuire, Gaelscoil Phádraig and Woodbrook College who welcome and support our GPO Steve Davis. Not forgetting our sponsors and the people of Shankill who never fail with their generous support of our fund-raising events. Remember shop local, support our village traders. We wish you all a Happy, Holy and Peaceful Christmas and a brilliant New Year.

Bray Women's Refuge Christmas Appeal
Again, we ask for your support for our Annual Collection. Donations must be NEW. Items such as baby food, pampers, baby grow's, pyjamas, underwear, socks etc, clothing size suitable for all ages, No TOYS. Items can be dropped off at St Annes School between 9.00am and 3.00pm on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December. Contributions will also be gratefully accepted in St Annes Church after all Masses.

Crinken Church Christmas Tree Festival.
We are delighted to have a tree in the festival which will be on Friday 5th Saturday 6th December 10.00am to 9.00pm and Sunday 7th December 2.00pm to 8.00pm. Our family group has been working hard on our creation, so you are all invited to come along and view all of the displays.

Academy
The Academy has moved back to Rathmichael School for the winter months. The time is from 10.00am to 11.00am on Saturday mornings. Just drop in and say hello. CHRISTMAS NEWS FLASH, if all the Academy kids keep on their best behaviour we may get a visit from Santa. So, everyone please be good.

Christmas Reindeer Race
The race which is sponsored by Core Credit Union and will start from Tilly's in Shanganagh Park on Sunday 14th December. The distance is 5k for adults, 1k for children and senior citizens can even walk the course. Keep an eye on our social media platforms for details of registrations and times etc.

Christmas Trees
As a club fund raiser, quality Wicklow Christmas Trees will be on sale at popular prices in St Annes School from 9.00am to 3.00pm on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December. All sizes available and for an extra €10 we will collect your tree for recycling on Saturday 3rd January 2026.
To book a tree contact Linda 087 2786064 or Jen 085 7088638.

JACKPOT €5500
@ 10/11/2025
Club Lotto Online Scan the QR Code

SOUTH SHANKILL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (SSRA) IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR AD-HOC AND LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

BECOME AN SSRA COMMITTEE MEMBER

Committee membership includes 1 x meeting per month, held locally, typically 1.5 hours to discuss local issues and agree actions for follow-up, e.g., local councillors, local organisations and clubs, DLR County Council, Irish Water, etc.

We are currently underrepresented and in need of 'street /estate reps' for St. Annes Park, Aubrey Grove, Aubrey Apartments, Shrewsbury Road & Hall and Cherrington.

AD-HOC LEAFLET DROPS IN YOUR ESTATE & ANNUAL STREET PARTY

If you cannot commit to committee membership, please feel free to volunteer to do occasional leaflet drops to inform neighbours about important local issues (e.g. Bus Connects, Summer Parties, Shanganagh Junction, AGMs, EGMs, Shanganagh Park Developments, public consultations, liaising with community gardai, etc. Typically, there are 3 to 4 leaflet drops per year.

AND/OR

Organise an informal street party at the end of August each year.

Contact local street reps or email us:

- Aubrey Grove | Aubrey Apartments | No Representative – Volunteers Welcome
- Cherrington Road | Rep. Dermot Aughney | Foxes Grove | Rep. Tanya Tiernan |
- Shanganagh Grove | Reps. Anna Whelan (Chair) & Bernie Meagher (PRO)
- St. Annes Park | No Representative – Volunteers Welcome.
- Shrewsbury Road & Hall – Volunteers Welcome.
- Quinns Road | Rep. (Lower Quinns Rd) Alison Kirwan & Secretary + Rep. (Upper Quinns Road) Grainne Sheridan Dempsey. Plus Treasurer – Donal Quinlan.

Email - *theSSRA1@gmail.com*

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL FROM SOUTH SHANKILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

EMAIL: thessra1@gmail.com

ST ANNE'S PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday 30th November

10am - 2pm

St Anne's Resource Centre
Shankill

Cake Stall
Christmas Raffles
Festive Stalls (ICA)
Quality Hampers
Hand Crafted Cards
Cosmetics, Arts & Crafts
Wheel of Fortune
Bottle Stall

CRAIC A PLENTY!

Visit Santa Claus

SHANKILL BOWLING CLUB

by Jack Byrne P.R.O.

What's another year as that song enquired of us way back then. With Christmas just around the corner, it's time to reflect on all our memories of the past twelve months. This usually leads us to take stock and make promises such as to go that extra mile or to change direction and perhaps bring a wee bit more satisfaction in our pursuits whatever they might be.

On the bowling front, the Summer of 2025 was not a very productive season competitively speaking for Shankill Bowling Club. But this can be accredited to our influx of new members - a trend which is always welcome and the benefits should only take a while to filter through. A shining example was seen this season in the national competition of Ladies singles where our President Ms. Martina Doherty in just her third year of bowling won the trophy and became the ILB Ladies singles champion - a noble feat indeed.

Shankill Bowling Club has in place help for anyone interested in this great sport. Mr. Eric Furry is the club's coach and is ready and willing to set you in the right direction should you join our gang at Quinn's Road. It's that time of year again for our Christmas party which all the members enjoy. The evening is made possible by all the hard work of our social committee, who continue to make these events second to none. This year they have arranged professional entertainment for the event. So be there for a great evening. It's all happening on Saturday, the 13th of December in our Club Hall. Looking forward to seeing all members and partners there.

Indoor bowling is continuing on Mondays and Thursdays on the shortmat circuit with participation by Shankill Bowling Club in an evening league (the N11) and a larger league in Wicklow, the East Coast bowling league, played at night in venues as distant as Gorey in Co Wexford. Our members are encouraged to play this wonderful shortmat game if they so wish.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mr. Albert Tyson, one of Shankill BC's extremely skilful bowlers on outdoor rinks and on the shortmat indoor bowls. A model member, is the way Albert has been described by everyone connected to Shankill Bowling Club. The Executive and all the members wish to convey their deepest condolences to Albert's family and may Albert's gentle soul rest in peace.

Shankill's Bowling Club's membership take this opportunity to wish all those wonderful SCAN volunteers who work to bring such a marvelous newsletter to the community and beyond and all its loyal readers a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

SHANKILL BOWLING CLUB
Xmas Gift Vouchers Available
Looking to meet new people and enjoy a relaxing outdoor sport?
Come and try bowling at Shankill Bowling Club.
✓ First 4 sessions FREE – Equipment provided!
✓ Friendly guidance for beginners
✓ A great way to stay active and social
✓ Ideal gift for birthdays or retirement
NEW MEMBERS OF ALL AGES & ABILITIES ARE WARMLY WELCOMED
CONTACT
Call: 086 864 2439
087 314 2759
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www.shankillbowlingclub.ie
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SHANKILL FC
Part of Our Community

For opportunities on all our boys & girls' teams from U7 to U19 and academies:

Email: info@shankillfc.ie
Web: www.shankillfc.ie
FB: @ShankillFootballClub
Twitter: @ShankillFC
Instagram: @ShakillFCPanthers
YouTube: @ShankillFC

Our girls teams had a brilliant time with DLR Waves in Beckett Park this month. Thanks to Laura and the Waves coaches for inviting us and putting on a great session.

A massive thank you to everyone who supported us this month between our Halloween Walk 🎃 and our Music Bingo 🎼 in Brady's Lounge. It was a huge success and thank you to all who donated prizes, bought raffle tickets and who showed up on the night.
We raised a total of €3880 which will go towards our Clubhouse renovation ⚒️. Thank you all for your support.
GoFundMe link: https://gofund.me/b0061817f
Our Online Club Shop is now open: www.shankillfc.ie/online-club-shop

PLAYERS WANTED
SHANKILL FC SENIOR LADIES
WHETHER YOU'RE A SEASONED PLAYER OR JUST GETTING BACK INTO THE GAME, GET IN TOUCH!
Training Tuesdays & Thursdays
Shanganagh Park/Stonebridge
Contact our Instagram page for more information

SHANKILL FC
PROUDLY PRESENTS OUR
PANTHERS ACADEMY
EVERY SATURDAY & SUNDAY @10AM
ON OUR CLUBHOUSE ASTRO IN SHANGANAGH PARK
FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 4 TO 6
CONTACT JON ON 0876904558 OR EMAIL INFO@SHANKILLFC.IE

SHANKILL FC
New Players Wanted
For Our New U9 & U10 Teams
Girls Born 2016 - 2018
Open Sessions
Monday / Wednesday 6pm - 7pm
St. Laurence College / DLR Leisure, Loughlinstown
Register Now 087 6904558
Email info@shankillfc.ie

CELEBRATING ONE YEAR OF MONTHLY BOOK SALES: A TRADITION RENEWED

by Sheila Grace

November marked the first anniversary of our renewed monthly Second-Hand Book Sale, a community-led initiative that quickly became a popular local event and a vital fundraiser for Shankill Seniors Centre (formerly SOFA). Though the format is just a year old, the spirit behind it stretches back more than two decades, rooted in a long-standing tradition of community, generosity, and a shared love of books.

Over twenty years ago, a group of dedicated volunteers, led by Macel McKell, started the book sale with donated second-hand books to raise money for Shankill Seniors Centre. Now a firm fixture in the community calendar, generations of locals remember browsing the bookcases and packed tables, discovering hidden gems, and dropping off their own donated books.

When it was announced that the original book sale was coming to an end, many supporters contacted the Centre to say, the book sale was an institution in its own right and would be very much missed, not only for the bargains but also the sense of connection and community the event brought. “Can nothing be done to save it”? was the constant refrain.

Last year, with the approval of the board, a new team of volunteers decided to harness that community spirit and committed to running the book sale for six months to see if we could make a go of it. It soon became apparent that if we put in the effort, we would reap the benefits. And although we are a small team, all of us are now well acquainted with the process of running the book sale from start to finish. So, between that and our close links with the very supportive library book club, the future is looking bright.

Each sale brings its own energy. Early browsers queue at the doors, keen to get first dibs from the c.2000 books, covering, Fiction, Popular Fiction, Non Fiction, Crime, Thriller & Adventure, History, Children & Young Adults, Art & Design, Wellness & Spirituality and Gardening, to name some of the more popular sections. Other people drop in later, happy to chat with friends and neighbours over a complimentary tea or coffee and simply enjoy the unique atmosphere. Behind the scenes, volunteers are busy sorting book donations, pricing books, and filling the storage shelves — driven not by profit but by purpose. Many of us are seniors ourselves, giving our time and effort to ensure the Centre continues to thrive.

Our aim is simple: to keep the stock turning, the community engaged and to provide a steady source of funding throughout the year. The response has way surpassed our expectations in terms of the expressions of good will and practical support.

As we mark this first anniversary, we want to thank everyone who has donated books, volunteered time, or simply called in to browse. Together, we have ensured not only the future of the book sale but also that it will continue to grow. Looking back on this last year, there is much to celebrate. The sale has raised thousands of euros for the Centre, but equally important are the friendships formed, the camaraderie shared and the reaffirmation of what a caring community can achieve together. Here’s to the next successful year, and many more, of books, volunteering, community spirit, and support for Shankill Seniors Centre.

The Book Sale takes place on the first Saturday of the month from 10am to 1pm. Donations of books in good condition are welcome on the morning of the sale. Due to storage issues donations are limited to two small bags per person.

BRADY'S OF SHANKILL GOLF SOCIETY

Brady's of Shankill Golf Society finished for the year in the classic course of Woodbrook with no less than 5 players in contention for player of the year, all chasing the points leader Ian Brennan, who won the presidents cup here at the same course earlier this year in June. At the end, Ian tied with Brendan Yates on points, but it was Brendan (whose superior combined Stableford points over the seven competitions pipped Ian) who was crowned "Golfer of the Year."

The 20th of June in Woodbrook had the best turnout of the year for our President Mr. Stephen Traynor. Stephen has dual jobs on the committee, as he is handicap secretary, a role many among us would say he relishes with sadistic enthusiasm. Ian Brennan pictured below receiving his cup from Stephen was a worthy champion.

The amazing Powerscourt Eastae was the venue for Captain's Day. Our captain, Ed Allen gifted each player with a fabulous golf towel to mark his special day. A very close-run competition

with countbacks deciding outcomes over the various grades. In the end Paul Keegan came out on top, pictured above with Ed Stephen and treasurer Ken. A first for our society. Justin Ward pictured above achieved the first hole in one recorded in our 26 years of existence.

A special mention to this man "Bertie" who is still playing golf at the ripe youthful age of eighty-eight, pictured above celebrating with us in Brady's of Shankill after one of the outings he attended this season. And finally, a big thank you to our sponsors who make these outings possible and the staff of Brady's of Shankill who make the evenings memorable.

SHANKILL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SWIM

Rally all your friends and family to support three local organisations that greatly impact the community of Shankill Village & Beyond!

Sponsorship cards available via Brian Mason or at Brady's of Shankill, support our cause by donating to our GoFundMe page!

Where? Killiney Beach, Entrance at the Dart Station
When? 12.00pm Christmas Day

Warm refreshments available on the day

Organised by Brian Mason & Shankill Community Group

Raising funds to aid, Scoil Mhuire, Shankill Old Folks, Saint Josephs Shankill

Local History Society Lectures

by James Scannell

Killiney Historical Society
James Brady will present ***'The War of Independence in Killiney and Dalkey 1916-1921'*** at 8 p.m. on Tuesday December 2nd in the Druid's Chair Pub upstairs lounge, Killiney Hill Road, Rocheshill, Killiney, Co. Dublin.
All are welcome – admission is €5.

Ballsbridge, Donnybrook and Sandymount Historical Society
Adrain Le Harivel will present ***'Christmas Shopping in Victorian Dublin'*** at 1 p.m. on Wednesday December 3rd in Pembroke Library, Anglesea Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Admission is free but booking required with Pembroke Library – call 01-222 8450 or email: ***pembrokelibrary@dublincity.ie***.

Dun Laoghaire Borough Historical Society
Conor Doyle will present ***'Jimmy O'Dea and the Theatre Royal'*** on Wednesday December 3rd and Vincent Delaney ***'Dunleary before the Royal Harbour'*** on Wednesday January 21st. Both lectures take place at 8 p.m. in the Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. All are welcome - admission is €5. Free hotel parking is available for those attending this lecture.

Mount Merrion Historical Society
Michael Barry will present ***'Spanish armada wrecks on the Irish coast'*** on Thursday December 4th and Anne McLoughlin ***'From Genealogy to writing historical fiction'*** on Thursday January 8th. Both lectures take place at 8 p.m. in The Fitzwilliam Rooms, Mount Merrion Community Centre, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin. Admission is €5/Students €2.

The Military History Society of Ireland
Dr. Paul Huddie will present ***'Ireland and the Crimean War'*** on Friday December 5th and Dr. Gavin Hughes ***'The Militia, Yeomanry and Fencibles in the 1798 Rebellion'*** on Friday January 9th. Both lectures take place at 8 p.m. in Griffith College, South Circular Road, Dublin 8.
All are welcome – admission is free.

Clontarf Historical Society
Donal Fallon will present ***'Dublin Pubs'*** at 7.30 p.m. in St. John's Pastoral Centre, Clontarf Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3. All are welcome - admission is €5.

Tallaght Historical Society
Cormac F. Lowth will present ***'A history of Lifeboats in Dublin Bay from 1802 to the present day'*** on Tuesday December 9th and Liz Gillis ***'The Early days of the Free State'*** on Tuesday January 13th. Both lectures take place at 7 p.m. in St. Maelruan's Church of Ireland Parish Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24.
All are welcome.

Kilmacud-Stillorgan Local History Society
Tom McGrath will present ***'My Father's Wartime Escape: My Family Discovered'*** at 8 p.m. on December 11th in St. Lawrence's Parish Centre, Lower Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Members are free – visitors are €3. Please note that there is a car parking charge of €1 per hour at this venue – coin payment only.

The Irish Railway Record Society
Finbarr O'Neil will present ***'Trip West: London to Cork'*** at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday December 18th in the Society's Dublin Heuston Station premises. Strictly members and their guests only.

Bray Cualann Historical Society
The Bray Cualann Historical Society Research Team will present ***'The Quinsboro Road Revisited'*** at 8 p.m. on January 15th in The Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow. All are welcome – members are free - visitors/members €8

Dublin Bay Old Gaffers Association
John Leahy will present ***'The Round Ireland Race from the Air'*** at 8 p.m. on Thursday January 15th in the Poolbeg Yacht and Boat Club, Ringsend Road, Dublin 4. All are welcome - donation to the R.N.L.I.

Foxrock Local History Club
James Scannell will recall ***'The Shooting of Alan Bell who went looking for Michael Collins' Funds'*** at 8 p.m. on Tuesday January 20th in the Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre, Foxrock, Co. Dublin. All are welcome - admission is €5.

Clondalkin Historical Society
Dr. Ronan Kelly will present ***'Every Branch of the Healing Art: A Short History of the College Surgeons in Ireland'*** at 8 p.m. on Monday January 26th in Áras Chrónáin – Irish Cultural Centre, Watery Lane, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin. All are welcome – admission is €5.

Shankill – Looking Back

A Dirty Water Pump
At the Wednesday January 15th 1901 meeting of the Rathdown No. 1 Rural District Council in the external boardroom building (demolished in 1959) of St. Columcille's Hospital, a letter was read from Captain Riall in which he said that he had made inquiries about the disused water pump in Shankill Village and had been told that the water from it was never fit for use. He suggested that it should be filled in from the bottom with the meeting adopting this suggestion.

Rathmichael Historical Society

by Richard Ryan

Our November lecture had the rather teasing title, "A Photographic Career in Ruins". All became clear when Con Brogan described his very interesting career as a photographer in the photographic unit of the National Monuments Service.

As a schoolboy, Con had become accomplished at developing and printing his own photographs and decided to follow this interest as a career. On leaving school, he joined a private company which specialized in architectural and industrial photography. A three-year photography course in Kevin Street College of Technology set him up to join the National Monuments Service when they advertised a position in 1973.

With great good humour, Con described his initial frustration with the bureaucracy of a Government institution and then his gradual acceptance of this as a small price to pay for having a job which was inherently very interesting and changing all the time.
His beautifully presented before-and-after shots of the conservation and restoration of monuments such as Boyle Abbey, Tintern Abbey, Adare Castle and Ormonde Castle in Carrick-on-Suir were wonderful. His favourite spot, however, was Skellig Michael and we, the audience, shared his excitement, terror and fascination as he clambered over this vertiginous site, fully recorded in his photographs.

We learned about the patience required to photograph the details on high crosses. Because they are generally oriented East/West, a photographer has to hang around for the best part of a day to ensure that the sun is in the right direction for each face.

The advent of small helicopters in the early 1980s was a game changer as it facilitated aerial photography. Then came the change from analogue to digital photography and involvement in the design of a digital archive system. Con retired in 2025, leaving behind an impressive 42-year archive for the National Monuments Service.

The remaining lectures in the programme will be as follows:

- Wednesday, 3rd December: *Rock Art* by Finola Finlay.
- Wednesday, 7th January: *Jacobean Armies* by Harman Murtagh.
- Wednesday, 4th February: A*GM followed by lecture* (title to be decided).
- Wednesday, 4th March: *The Irish Ringforts after Three Decades* by Matthew Stout.
- Wednesday, 4th April: *The Houses of Meath* by Aisling Durkan.

All talks are at 8pm in Rathmichael School, Stonebridge Road, Shankill, Co.Dublin and are wheelchair-accessible.

Non-members are welcome to attend our talks on payment of a €5 entrance fee which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.

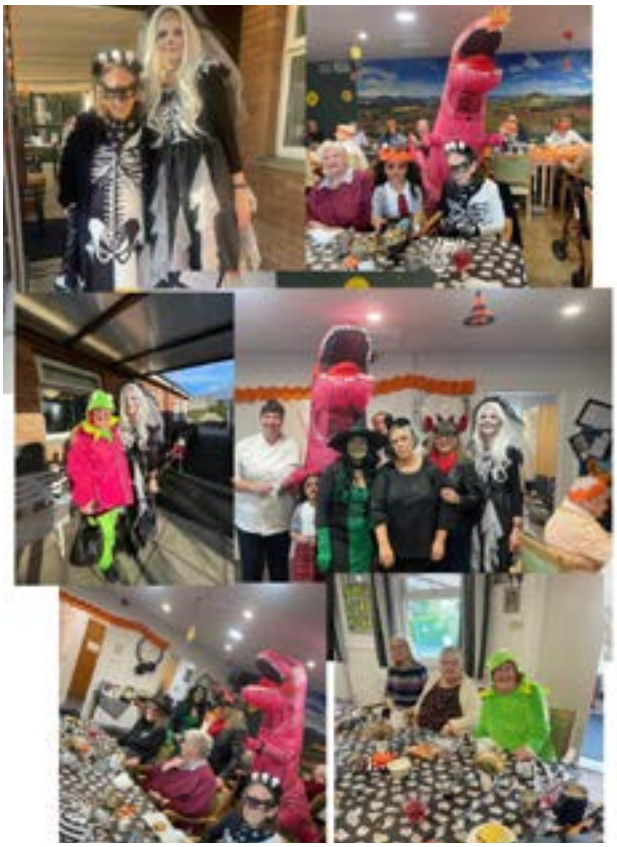
The talks are also accessible on Zoom.

See website for further information:
www.rathmichaelhistoricalsociety.ie

SSC
Shankill
Seniors Centre

SPIRITS HIGH AT SHANKILL SENIORS CENTRE!

The Shankill Seniors Centre was full of life and laughter this Halloween as members and friends came together for a frightfully fun celebration! The annual Halloween Party was a roaring success — with everyone getting into the spirit by dressing up in creative, spooky, and sometimes downright hilarious costumes. From witches to wizards and everything in between, the atmosphere was buzzing with joy, music, and good company. It was a wonderful reminder of how vibrant and welcoming our community continues to be.



But the fun doesn't stop there! The Seniors Centre has plenty happening all year round. Our monthly book sale takes place on the first Saturday of every month, offering a wide selection of books at great prices. Even better, every book purchase comes with a free cup of coffee, so you can sit back, relax, and enjoy a good read with friends old and new.

Speaking of coffee — don't forget that our Coffee Dock is open daily, serving up delicious drinks and friendly conversation. We're always on the lookout for dedicated volunteers to lend a hand. If you have a few hours to spare and would like to be part of a warm, welcoming team, we'd love to hear from you.

Looking ahead to the festive season, we're thrilled to be part of a fantastic local initiative, the Great Christmas Day Swim, organised by Brian Mason in partnership with Brady's Pub. This annual event raises much-needed funds for local causes, and we're truly grateful to be one of the beneficiaries this year.

To support the fundraiser, we're holding a raffle at the centre, with a wonderful Christmas hamper and goodies up for grabs! Tickets are available Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at the centre — so be sure to pop in and get yours. There are also sponsorship forms available for anyone who'd like to take part in or support the swim directly.

It's all happening at Shankill Seniors Centre — a place full of heart, laughter, and community spirit. Come join us for a chat, a cuppa, and a cause worth supporting!

COMMUNITY
I was reminded of this poem recently:
Charles Osgood (1933-2024) radio and television commentator, author wrote,

'The Responsibility Poem'

"This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and everybody was asked to do it.

Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done."

When there was a major water leak on Shanganagh Road opposite the entrance to Hazelwood it lasted at least two weeks and probably more before "Anyone" contacted Irish Water who repaired it within 48 hours.

SHANKILL AS A VILLAGE
On 18th October SAGE held a 'workshop', an opportunity for anyone interested to discuss whatever aspect of Climate Change they wished. In the event, because the turnout was very small we discussed Shankill and in particular its biodiversity needs. This discussion was very helpful and we agreed that with the huge amount of building and the large increase in population in the area, the personality of Shankill as a 'country' village is already changing and that much of great value will be lost unless our new residents can be encouraged to see Shankill as their home rather than just a place to sleep.

This is important to SAGE as an organisation, alongside Tidy Towns, whose interests are not restricted to a focus on specific local interests, because since the broad environment of Shankill is bound to change, it is crucially important that we, as residents of the village, ensure that it develops as a whole in a structured way for the benefit of all.

We have a bit of homework to do first but we will be looking at ways in which the entire community, new and old, can be engaged to see Shankill as their home with protection of the unique characteristics which make it such a special place to live.
This can only happen if a group of residents representing all parts of the community of Shankill are prepared to give of their expertise, experience and time over an extended period, to care for Shankill as a place to both preserve and develop in ways which will be favourable to us all.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE WORLD
By the time you see this, COP30 will be over and we will know whether our leaders were actually able to lead and commit to the changes needed to protect future generations from the ravages of climate change. Figures released in mid-October in the 2025 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change show that over 500,000 people in the world die each year from the effects of climate change and associated pollution. Agricultural productivity is beginning to fall due to drought and storms, as is productivity more generally, due to increased temperatures limiting outdoor working such as on building sites, and increased indoor temperatures in communities lacking air conditioning. And all this is happening while the fossil fuel industry is directly subsidised and the community and environmental costs of continuing to use fossil fuels to the extent of over $7trillion per year are not priced in. (The Economist 2/11/25)

How mad can we get about this situation? If instead, that money was used to generate and extend the use of renewable technologies, repair the environmental damage caused by industrial and agricultural activity and build resilience in those communities at greatest risk we could largely solve our problems. Instead, political inaction is leading to increasing damage to all the systems we need for survival. Unfortunately, there are signs that the natural systems which have been removing up to 30% of the CO_2 we produce are over stressed and becoming progressively less able to cope. But we know that when left to recover without human pressures the ability of the environment to flourish is stunning.

COMMUNITY PRIZEWINNERS
Finally, congratulations to Mark Anderson and Shankill Men's Shed/ Community Gardens who were the overall winners in the category 'Environment and Climate Action' in the DLRCC Community and Volunteer Awards recently.

ASK the Expert

FINANCE CORNER

"Can My Small Company Make a Lump Sum Contribution to my Pension for Tax Efficiency purposes?"

The short answer to this question is YES. Company pension contributions represent one of the most effective and tax-efficient methods of extracting profits from a company while simultaneously reducing your corporation tax bill. These contributions can play a key role in both long-term retirement planning and short-term tax optimisation, provided they are implemented correctly and within the appropriate accounting period.

TAX EFFICIENCY AND CORPORATION TAX REDUCTION

When a company makes an employer contribution to a director's or employee's pension scheme, typically an Executive Pension Plan or a PRSA, that contribution is treated as an allowable business expense. This means it can be deducted from the company's gross profits before calculating the corporation tax liability. Given Ireland's standard corporation tax rate of 12.5%, pension contributions can lead to significant tax savings.

For example, if a company has €100,000 in taxable profits and makes a €20,000 employer pension contribution, its taxable profits are reduced to €80,000. This directly cuts the corporation tax bill by €2,500 (12.5% of €20,000). In addition, the funds contributed to the pension are not subject to income tax, PRSI, or USC for the director, unlike a salary or dividend payment. This makes pension contributions far more efficient than other methods of profit extraction.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AND STRATEGIC BENEFITS

Beyond immediate tax savings, employer pension contributions allow directors to build substantial retirement benefits in a tax-sheltered environment. The funds grow free of tax on investment returns, and the company can contribute significantly more than an individual could personally, subject to Revenue limits based on salary, service, and overall pension funding position.

By directing surplus profits into a pension, a company avoids over-accumulating retained earnings, which could otherwise be subject to additional close company surcharge rules if not distributed.

Employer pension contributions must be made before the company's accounting year-end to be deductible against that year's profits. The expense is only allowable in the accounting period in which the payment is physically made, not merely planned or accrued. This means a company cannot decide after the year-end, when preparing accounts, to make a pension contribution and retrospectively apply it to reduce the previous year's corporation tax liability.

Engaging with an accountant or financial adviser before year-end ensures not only that contributions are made on time, but also that the most suitable pension structure is chosen for your specific circumstances.

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SHANKILL BALLYBRACK FIRST RESPONDERS – A MONTH OF MILESTONES AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT

It's been a remarkable month for the Shankill Ballybrack First Responders, and we're feeling incredibly grateful for the continued support from the community.

We are delighted to share that a new Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) cabinet has been installed at PM O'Loughlin Foods at the BBQ Centre, thanks to the generous support of Phoenix Electrical. Their kindness and commitment to community safety mean that life-saving equipment is now more accessible. A heartfelt thank you to both Phoenix Electrical and PM O'Loughlin Foods for making this possible.

In October, our volunteer team responded to 43 emergency calls—the highest number we've recorded. This milestone shows the importance of having trained volunteers ready to help when every second counts.

And don't forget we can help others learn life-saving skills. So far, we've trained over 530 people in CPR through the Irish Heart Foundation's "Hands for Life" course. These sessions are ideal for workplaces, sports clubs, community groups, schools, and anyone who wants to be prepared to help in a cardiac emergency. If you'd like to book a training session for your group, we'd love to hear from you! Just drop us a line at info@shankillcfr.ie. If you want to attend as an individual,

please keep an eye on our website, Instagram, or Facebook page for future dates and book your free spot at the next session.

Thank you for standing with us, learning with us, and helping us make Shankill, and the surrounding areas, a safer place for everyone.

For inquiries or training bookings, please contact:
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VITAMIN D

Most of us know that with shorter days and scarce sunlight in the winter months our bodies struggle to make enough Vitamin D – but when did you last have yours checked?

Vitamin D is often referred to as the sunshine vitamin as we need the sun's UVB rays to shine directly onto our skin to trigger an amazing succession of conversions starting in the skin and continuing via the liver and then the kidneys until we end up with the active form of Vitamin D circulating in our bloodstream. This powerful nutrient acts like a hormone in our bodies regulating blood calcium levels and influencing many other areas of our health including:

Bone and Muscle health: Vitamin D is essential for absorption of calcium and phosphorus required for strong bones and teeth. Having good levels of Vitamin D can reduce the risk of osteoporosis and falls in older people by supporting muscle strength and coordination. *(note: Vitamin K2 found in fermented foods, aged cheeses, egg yolks & meat is also essential for calcium absorption into bones – dark green leafy veg contain K1 which may also be converted by the body to K2)*

Immune system support: Vitamin D enhances immune cell activity, helping the body fight off viruses and bacteria and may help you keep colds and flu at bay this winter. Healthy levels of Vitamin D are also associated with a lower risk of chronic inflammatory conditions and autoimmune diseases.

Mood and mental wellbeing: Low levels of Vitamin D have been linked to low mood and SAD (seasonal affective disorder).

Heart and metabolic health: Some newer evidence suggests Vitamin D may help maintain normal blood pressure levels and support cardiovascular health. It also helps with insulin regulation – which can help to prevent type 2 diabetes.

In Ireland between October and March we are unable to get enough UVB exposure to make Vitamin D. This makes it important to focus on dietary sources and supplements to maintain adequate levels. Unfortunately, dietary sources are very limited and include oily fish, egg yolks and Vitamin D fortified foods and provide only small amounts. Potentially some mushrooms may be labelled as containing Vitamin D if they were grown under UVB lights.

The HSE recommends a daily supplement of 400iu in winter months but unless you have your own levels measured you will not know how much Vitamin D you actually need. Some people struggle to maintain levels of Vitamin D even when taking supplements and may require to take higher doses. Surprisingly, despite the obvious health benefits of having good levels of Vitamin D, it is not usually routinely measured by your doctor unless you ask.

***TIP:** As Vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin it is better absorbed by the body if taken at the same time as a fat containing food/ meal – e.g. egg, oily fish, cheese, milk, etc.*

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Update from...

Cormac Devlin TD

It was an honour to attend the inauguration of President Catherine Connolly at Dublin Castle on 11th November and to represent our community there. I wish the President every success in her term of office. Buíochas leis an iar-Uachtarán Michael D. Higgins as ucht a sheirbhíse d'Éirinn.

SANTA'S POST BOXES ARE BACK
Christmas is just around the corner and, once again, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council has given the North Pole permission to install special Santa Post Boxes in the county.

This year, Santa's bright red post boxes will appear at the dlr LexIcon in Dún Laoghaire and in Cabinteely Park. Children can post their letters and, by a little Christmas magic and "Elf Airlines", they are whisked straight to the North Pole. Santa then sends a reply to all boys and girls before Christmas.

Families can also download a free Augmented Reality app at the Santa Post Boxes or from webcloudone.com/dlrchristmas to meet Mrs Claus, Santa, Elf, Rudolf and even the Talking Tree. Thank you to the Council for continuing this lovely tradition for local children.

PICKER PALS IN OUR LOCAL SCHOOLS
I want to congratulate Scoil Mhuire, Shankill and Rathmichael National School, along with schools right across Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, for taking part in the Picker Pals programme again this year.

Picker Pals is an environmental education scheme that turns primary school children into "litter heroes" in their own neighbourhoods. Each week a child brings home a special Picker Pack of litter-picking gear, leads a family clean-up and then reports back to classmates. It is a simple idea that builds pride in our area, reduces waste and gets families talking about how we care for our local environment.

Thanks to support from the Minister for the Environment, Darragh O'Brien, the programme is free for schools, with new packs for first-time schools and "booster" packs so returning schools can keep using their equipment.

PROTECTING CHILDREN AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
In recent weeks, Ministers Jim O'Callaghan and Helen McEntee announced Government approval to progress Operation Encompass, an important early intervention measure for children who experience domestic violence in the home.

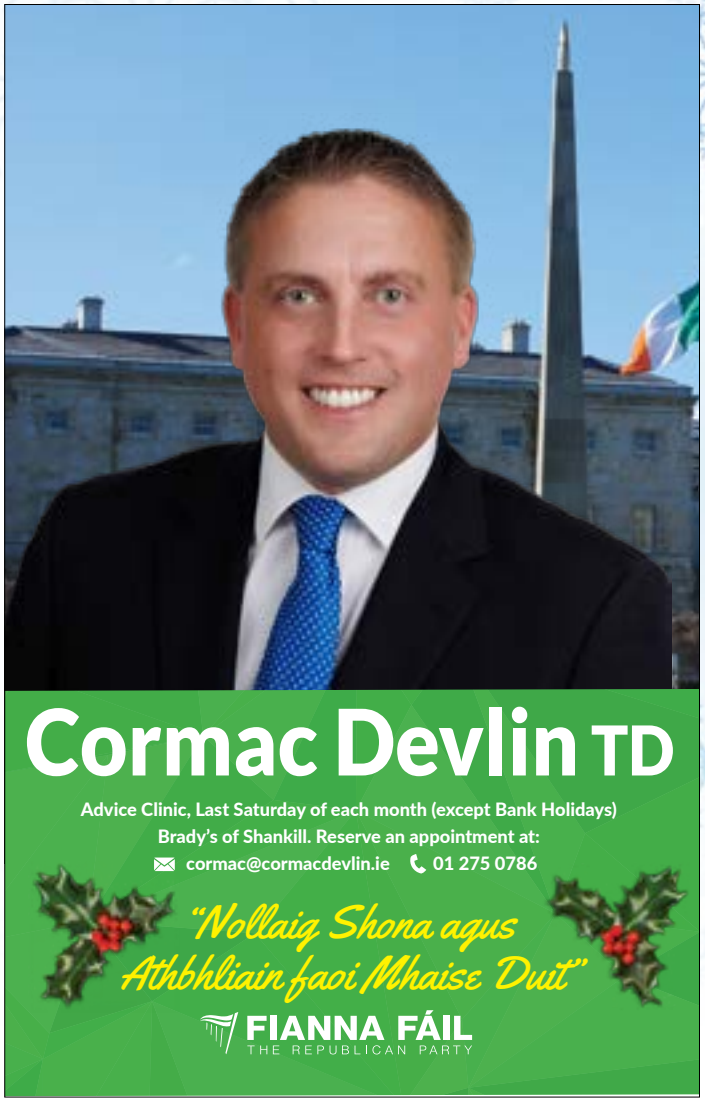
Under the scheme, An Garda Síochána will be able to share a simple notification with a designated person in the child's school, letting the school know that a domestic violence incident has taken place. No details of the incident will be shared. The aim is to ensure that, the next morning, a teacher is aware that a child may be upset or withdrawn and can keep a closer, caring eye on them.

This is about quiet, practical support for vulnerable children in a place where they should feel safe, their school.

BOWELSCREEN NOW OPEN TO MORE PEOPLE
Finally, there is important good news on health. The HSE's BowelScreen programme has now been expanded to include people aged 58. Over 60,000 extra people nationwide will be invited for free bowel screening, as the age range moves toward 55 to 74.

Bowel screening is a simple home test that looks for tiny traces of blood in your stool, often long before any symptoms appear. If cancer is found early, treatment is usually easier and outcomes are much better.

If you or a family member is aged between 58 and 70, please check your post for an invitation or visit hse.ie/bowelscreen or call 1800 45 55 55 to make sure you are registered and to request a kit.


Cormac Devlin TD
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"Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi Mhaise Duit"
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THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

KEEPING IN TOUCH
My monthly Advice Clinic takes place in **Brady's of Shankill** on the last Saturday of each month (excluding Bank Holidays). Please contact **Michael Reynolds** in my office on **01 275 0786** or ***cormac@cormacdevlin.ie*** to make an appointment or if I can assist you in any way.

In April of 2025 a group of men met in Brady's of Shankill with the view to forming a Shankill branch of the Irish Men's Shed Association. There was enough interest among those gathered to meet again and formally set up a committee. A start up program was put in place - write a constitution, become affiliated, get insurance, become accredited with the county council, etc. All was accomplished and phase 2 started. Get a shed.

We did not have a shed and met to discuss the how's and what's in Brady's every Monday over a coffee. Following a meeting with the very helpful Geraldine of Men's Shed Ireland and Pradraic of Dun Laoghaire County Council, we had more clarity in the process and proceeded with gusto. Members visited other Sheds in the county to get ideas and advice from those who had done it "so to speak". We looked at different venues to place a shed but the option that stood out was in Core Credit Union Park. Core Park is the home of SVS fc. It is a field behind St. Colmcille hospital. SVS fc had a portacabin that was not in use and offered it to the group.

The Shed was in poor condition with a leaking roof and rotten floor, broken windows and doors, but repairing it is a project of the group.

Phase 3. Involved getting some money to pay for the repairs. Darren White Roofing was first on board when we set up a Go fund me page, followed by Shankill fc and the community responded with further donations. We ran a very successful Music Bingo in Brady's of Shankill that brought in further funds. With the help of a local electrical contractor who gave his services for free and, wisely or not he wants to remain nameless, we now have power and can get the Shed into a reasonable condition to make it usable.

Phase 4. in progress - setting up a workshop.

The men have however done some projects in the area, assisting the men's shed in Shanganagh cliffs allotments, namely the "Garden Shed" with the building of a covered Gazebo for outdoor dining for the members and allotment holders. We enjoyed a morning bowling, a game of pitch and putt. New members are welcome just come down and join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat, Mondays 11:00am.

By Brendan Yates

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Ask a Councillor

Cllr. Jim Gildea

HEALTHY AGE FRIENDLY HOMES PROGRAMME:

Context: Service designed to enable older people to remain living in their own home for longer. Programme is a collaboration between the Department of Health and Department of Housing and Local Government. Funded by Department of Health and operated by Meath County Council on behalf of local authorities countrywide (shared service model).

Mission: Enable older people to continue living in their homes or in a home more suited to their needs. Enable older people to live with a sense of independence & autonomy and be and feel part of their communities. Support the avoidance of early or premature admission to long term residential care

Role of Co-Ordinators – 2 Local Coordinators in DLR
- Enable & Empower Older People
- Providing Information and Signposting to supports
- Facilitative processes "handholding"
- Implement Actions and Track Progress
- There is NO limit on the amount of visits a Coordinator does per person

HOUSING
- Housing Adaptation Grants
- Grant information
- BER Home Energy Assessments
- Rightsizing
- Care and Repair
- Home sharing

Technology
- Personal alarms
- Panic Buttons
- Digital training
- Connectivity

MEDICAL / HEALTH
- Access to Physiotherapy
- Access to Occupational Therapy
- GP Visits - Referrals
- Medical Card applications
- Home Support Service

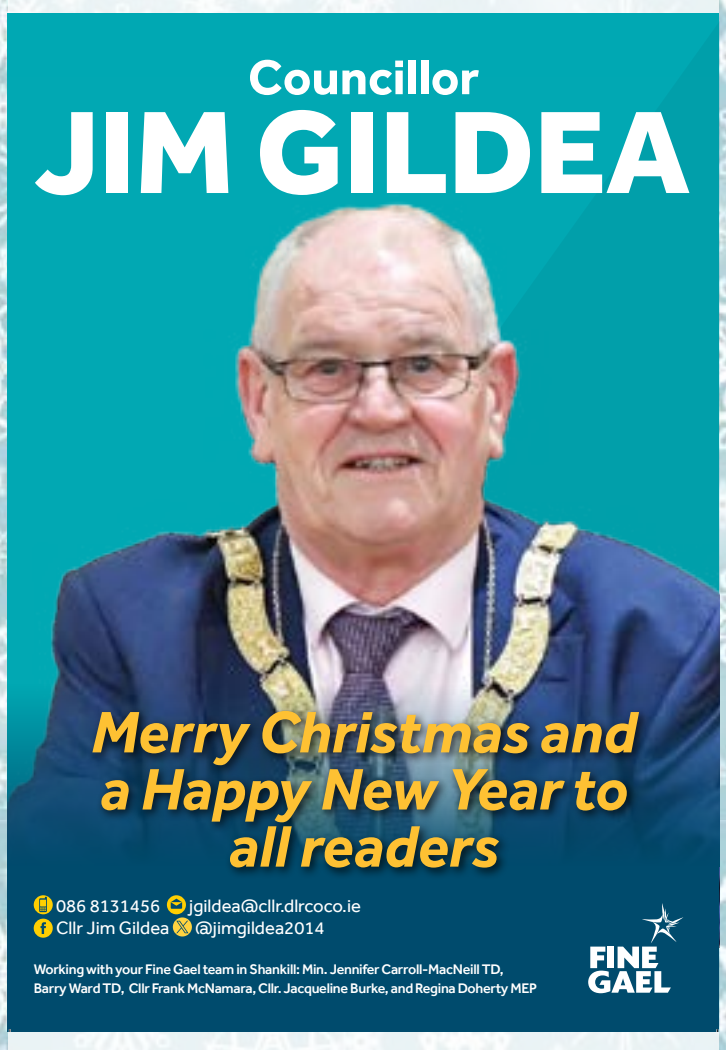
FINANCIAL
- Accessing Allowances
- Carers Supports
- Pension information
- Bills Advice

How to Make a Referral
Complete a form available at **046 924 8899**
Send by email to *healthyagefriendlyhomes@meathcoco.ie/post*
WebForm: *www.agefriendlyireland.ie/healthy-age-friendly-homes-programme/making-a-referral/*
Once a referral is received it is allocated to a Local Coordinator who will schedule a home visit.

Referrals will be accepted from:
- Self-referral
- Family Member/Friend
- Clinical Referrals
- Local Authority Staff
- Elected Reps

COLLECTION OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AT SHANGANAGH RECYCLE CENTRE
To ask the Chief Executive if, in order to further demonstrate our Councils commitment to sustainability and the circular economy, there are plans to facilitate the collection of small electrical and electronic waste equipment at the recycle centre at Shanganagh Park, Shankill even on a pilot basis?

Reply: Previously, WEEE Ireland and Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council carried out a pilot project for collecting WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) for recycling at Shanganagh Recycling Centre. WEEE has a certain scrap value and the presence of WEEE on site led to a number of break-ins. Unfortunately, despite everyone's best efforts, this trial was not feasible and had to be abandoned after a short period of time. However, there are several other options available within the County for recycling WEEE. WEEE can be recycled free of charge at Ballyogan Recycling Park. It can be brought back to an electrical retailer under the free WEEE take-back scheme. There are a number of these retailers throughout the County, and they can be found on the WEEE Ireland website. There are also community based social enterprises such as Recycle IT specializing in WEEE recycling who will take any electrical item for recycling free of charge. Therefore, there are no current plans to facilitate the collection of small electrical and electronic waste equipment at Shanganagh Recycling Centre


Councillor
JIM GILDEA
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers
086 8131456 jgildea@cllr.dlrcoco.ie
Cllr Jim Gildea @jimgildea2014
Working with your Fine Gael team in Shankill: Min. Jennifer Carroll-MacNeill TD, Barry Ward TD, Cllr Frank McNamara, Cllr. Jacqueline Burke, and Regina Doherty MEP
FINE GAEL

FARMERS MARKET CHERRYWOOD AREA
To ask the Chief Executive if there are plans to set up a Farmers Market in an area of Cherrywood East of the M50, in order to provide the residents in the area and beyond with a sense of community, a focal point and somewhere to eat and socialise?

Reply: The Parks Department currently operate the CoCo Markets every weekend at The People's Park (Sunday) and Marlay Park (Saturday & Sunday). There are currently no plans to set up a new market in Cherrywood. However, this can be reviewed as the development of Cherrywood nears completion.
Note:- I am very disappointed with this reply. Since the closure of the Farmers Market in Kilternan some time ago there has been a demand for this service in the area.

REFURBISHMENT OF 12 HOUSING UNITS AT HOLLYPARK
I have been advised that a contractor has been appointed to carry out a comprehensive refurbishment of the 12 housing units at Hollypark. Work will commence in the next few weeks.

Woodbrook College

Every year, Woodbrook College works hard to give back to their community. We do this in a variety of ways that involves the whole school community.

Fun Run

Our annual whole school Fun Run was in aid of Purple House in Bray and the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Our LCA students organised the event as part of their Leisure and Recreation module. Huge thanks to the Parents' Association who organiseda tuck shop and were ably assisted by our LCA students.

Pink Bake Sale

Our Pink Bake Sale in aid of Breast Cancer Ireland was a huge success. Staff and students raised an incredible €880 for Breast Cancer Ireland to help support vital research, education and awareness programmes in the fight against breast cancer.

A special shout-out goes to 5th year Slaney and Ms Cluskey, who baked delicious homemade cupcakes with pink icing during their cookery class and sold them to staff and students at breaktime. Their enthusiasm, teamwork and baking skills really helped make the day something special and their cupcakes were a big hit! Staff and students supported the event by baking, buying, donating, or simply stopping by for a sweet treat, which made this fundraiser such a warm and positive occasion.

Fancy Dress Day

Our Transition Year students with Ms. M. Hand organised a non-uniform day with a seasonal difference! The last day of our half term was fancy dress day. Our staff and students put their creativity to the test with the most amazing and hilarious costumes which were showcased in our spooky fashion show organised by Ms. Walker. Highlights of the fashion show were captured by our TY social media team on Instagram @ woodbrook_college_bray. Our school community raised €512 for Make-A-Wish Ireland, a very special charity which grants the wishes of children with critical medical conditions to bring them hope, strength and happiness.

Shoebox Appeal

Our 5th year students and Mr. Coady are busy putting the finishing touches to the shoeboxes for Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal. This is an annual campaign that delivers gifts straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. Often these shoebox gifts are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas and the joy that they bring is incredible.

Parents' Association Autumn Clothing Recycling

Our Parents' Association organised an Autumn Clothing Recycling Fundraiser for our school and the wider community. There were lots of donations over the weekend. School uniforms were also being collected with a view to setting up a uniform exchange. All donations were gratefully received, and we appreciate the efforts of our hard-working Parents' Association. Please email wbcpaemail@gmail.com for more information.

Ask a Councillor

Cllr. Carrie Smyth

SHANKILL LIBRARY
I received representations regarding access to Shankill Library. I raised this with the County Librarian and received the following reply:

"Thank you for your query on Shankill library.
We are currently undertaking a schedule of improvement works for the branch. This includes conservation of the windows, installation of internal glazing and addition of new shelving in this initial phase of work, while keeping the branch open to our users. Some critical roof repairs and energy efficiency works are planned in the next phase of works.

We acknowledge that the path is old and degraded at this stage, and accessibility is a concern, so have committed to a topographical survey of the garden, including the path, with the intention of making the approach to the library more accessible for all our users.

In the interim, we have undertaken to power-wash the path in order to remove any leaves/moss, requested a quote to apply a non-slip surface to it, if appropriate, and we are getting advice on the feasibility and usefulness of installation of a handrail along the path.

We would be hopeful of continuing the works in Shankill library, in 2026, subject to available funding."

PATH - GREEN AREA WITHIN DORNEY COURT
To ask the Chief Executive when the path along the desired line will be installed on the green area within Dorney Court, Shankill?

Reply: While there has been a further design amendment for this path, the contractors have committed to commence the construction works in December 2025.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING - NORTH OF QUINN'S ROAD, SHANKILL VILLAGE
To ask the Chief Executive for a progress report on the installation of a pedestrian crossing (Signalised, Zebra or "Vienna Convention") North of Quinn's Road Roundabout on Dublin Road in Shankill Village?

Reply: The Traffic and Road Safety Section has carried out a topographical survey of the location mentioned in the question with a view to preparing a design for a Type B Zebra Crossing to be installed at the location. It is expected that the design will be completed by Q1 2026 with a view to installing the crossing by the end of Q3 2026.

SHANGANAGH CASTLE
To ask the Chief Executive to report on the expert advice for how the Castle building and dormitory wing could best be utilized based on the following motion that was discussed at the Dún Laoghaire Area Committee meeting on Monday 24th of February: "That the Chief Executive begin exploring the future use of the buildings that formed Shanganagh Castle, Shankill now Shanganagh Castle Development is nearing completion and now the Department of Housing, Local Government and Housing has decided that the property is no longer under consideration for use under the refurbishment programme."

Reply: Following a commitment given to Members at the Dún Laoghaire ICC Area Committee dated 24th February 2025, Property Management requested Architects section to prepare a high level analysis of proposed future uses for the buildings that form Shanganagh Castle Estate, namely:

Building 'A' Shanganagh Castle - a Protected Structure (RPS No. 1845)

Block 'B' Former dormitory building
Block 'C' Former Sports hall / Classroom facility

This analysis was prepared and presented to the Executive and examined possible future uses and redesign proposals for the entire facility as well as a breakdown of potential uses and redesign for various combinations of the three buildings.

There are major issues remaining:
- that significant funding/funding partners required for any redevelopment of the built facilities;
- the Castle building is a Protected Structure, and the adjoining, interconnected buildings and lands are in the curtilage of a Protected Structure.

Property Management have been tasked with the security of the facility and grounds until a development opportunity is identified. Significant internal clearance work of debris has been carried out on each of the three buildings since the Council took ownership of the facility in August 2021.

The facility and lands are currently zoned Objective 'A1' in the County Development Plan 2022 – 2028:

'To provide for new residential communities and Sustainable Neighbourhood Infrastructure in accordance with approved local area plans'

A full architectural conservation assessment of Building 'A' Shanganagh Castle has also been completed, resulting in temporary repairs to the roof of the Castle building (Building 'A') to address water ingress and stabilization of the floors within the house have been completed. The grassed areas within the perimeter of the lands are currently being maintained by Parks.

Scoil Mhuire
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Induction meeting for parents and orientation day for children details to follow
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Scoil Mhuire Hens

The Scoil Mhuire Hens; Strawberry and Sicín went on their extended holidays to Co. Laois over the Summer for some R&R. Strawberry was feeling a bit poorly before the holidays, so we decided it was best for her to go home with Ms. Creane where she could get her medicated baths and two courses of antibiotics over the summer. They are starting to feel and look a bit better. When fighting fit, they will be so happy to return to the boys and girls in Scoil Mhuire!

The Food Dudes Programme

Some of the children in our school have been having a blast taking part in the Food Dudes Programme! Every day, the classrooms are buzzing with excitement as the children try new fruits and veggies, cheer each other on, and collect their cool Food Dudes prizes. There have been lots of funny faces, crunchy peppers, and juicy orange smiles as everyone becomes a real-life Food Dude hero — saving the day one healthy bite at a time!

Maths

Ms. Kenny's 1st and 2nd class have been busy little mathematicians, working hard on writing number sentences using ten frames and counters! The room is full of colourful counters, bright ideas, and big smiles as the children build, count, and discover how numbers fit together. Everyone is having great fun turning maths into a hands-on adventure!

Crazy Hair Day & Halloween

Ms. Kenny's 1st and 2nd class had a spooktacular time celebrating Crazy Hair Day and Halloween! The classroom was bursting with wild hairstyles, wacky colours, and the most amazing costumes — from creepy creatures to magical superheroes.

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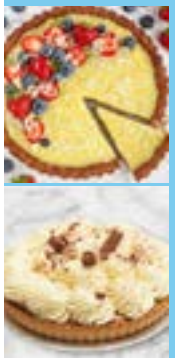

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Rathmichael National School

The children have been involved in a lot of exciting activities over the last number of weeks.

3rd Class went to Airfield on 15th October for the "Airfield Experience" where they learned about seasonality, sustainability, composting and the problem of food waste, among other topics.

We were delighted to welcome a past parent, Niall Carty, into 6th Class on 16th October during Music, to share his ukulele knowledge with the children. The children really gained from the experience.

Steve Davis from Shankill GAA visited the school on 17th October, along with a Dublin team member, Rachel Hartnett, to show the Brendan Martin Cup to the pupils who looked so colourful in their club jerseys.

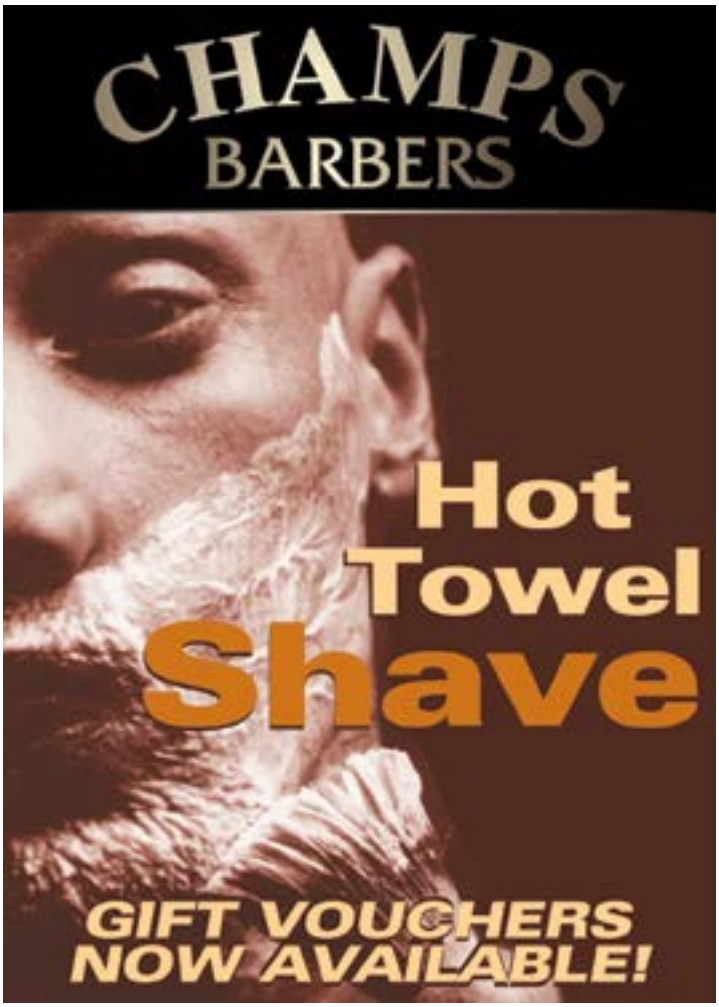
Two of our Community Gardaí came into school on 23rd October to talk to 5th and 6th Classes about Halloween and its inherent safety concerns.

On the last day before the mid-term break, a representative from Team Hope attended our Assembly to talk to the children about the Christmas Shoebox Appeal and the difference this can make to children in disadvantaged countries.

Also on the last day, there was a fantastic array of costumes on display as the children dressed up and paraded with their Buddy classes around the school pitch. My thanks to the PTA Committee and their volunteers for making the Fancy Dress Up and Dance Day so successful. The children all looked amazing in their costumes and had great fun dancing in the Hall.

We are looking forward to the rest of the term and the build up to Christmas.

Naomi Rousseau
Principal



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6 PM - 8 PM

Christmas Service
25th December 10:30 AM

at Shankill Bible Church
Eatonwood Grove
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St. Anne's National School

Let Us Reintroduce Ourselves

Did you know our Media Team writes the content for SCAN each month. We are students from 4th class up to 6th class. We brainstorm ideas for what we think would be good to feature on our page. We complete interviews for more information and then we get typing on our content. Here is a picture of the full team.

Proud

We are so proud of Haylee in 3rd class who donated 14 inches of her hair to **The Little Princess Trust** and raised over one thousand seven hundred euro for **LauraLynn – Ireland's Children's Hospice.** She also raised another €100 together with her friend Izzy selling handmade loom band bracelets.
We are all super proud of you.

Updates in Our School

by Aibhe Shannon

We recently had a Halloween mask competition at our school, where everyone in each class was given a paper plate, and went home and made a mask. This was run by the PTA. Most people did a halloween theme for their mask, but many of our participants, and winners did a normal mask, and they were all brilliant.

We interviewed a boy in Ms Conway's second class, Tadhg Kelleher.

Tadhg loves art, and does it a lot at home, as well as in school. His mask was halloween themed, he made a werewolf mask!
He used an egg carton for his wolf's nose, and painted his wolf's face, and added a few pompoms in here and there, just to give it a final artistic touch.

Though he is only eight, he did all of this amazing mask by himself.
All the classes in the school entered our competition, and we were very proud of the results, and the artistic talent that was on display. Well done to everyone who entered, we hope you all had a good halloween!

Here are some pictures of some of the entries.

The Halloween Bake Sale

by Alisa Kalinkevich

Before the Halloween break we had a Halloween bake sale! The students baked loads of cakes and sweet treats. All the kids dressed up in amazing costumes went to the bake sale and bought some delicious treats.There was also a scary mask competition! Everyone got a paper plate, and they got to design it however they wanted. All the masks turned out amazing.We also had a school raffle with amazing prizes.Overall the event was a huge success! And we all just want to say a huge thanks to the PTA for organizing the whole thing

STEM Halloween Challenge

by Rachel Hughes

Our whole School took part in a Halloween STEM challenge. I am Rachel in 2nd class and my group was me, Sophie and Monica. Together we made ghost mobiles. To do this you need
1.Tinfoil
2. Play-doh
3. Sticks
4.Glue
5.Paper
6. Markers
7.Tape

You fold the tinfoil into a cuboid shape and stick sticks on the side. We drew pumpkins on the paper and cut it out to make wheels on the side. We then designed the mobile for the ghost using play-doh and markers.

Here are some pictures of the STEM projects from across the whole school.

Croke Park Final

by Melissa Dooley

On the 21st of October, our team won the Cumman na mBunscol girls primary school final in Croke Park. The 5th and 6th classes came to support us in Croke park. The team played really well and everyone left everything out on the pitch. All the hard work paid off and the final score of the match was 2-7 to 1-4! Lifting that trophy with my team was an absolutely unforgettable experience. Everyone was celebrating and handing out sweets in the changing rooms, taking turns holding the trophy and having fun. I brought the trophy back on the bus and when we got back to the school all the classes were waiting to congratulate us as we got off the bus. For the rest of the day we received endless congratulations and we brought the trophy around to some classes to show the students. My name is Melissa and I was so honored to be the captain of this amazing group of talented girls.

Shankill TidyTowns — Glanbhaile Seanchill

Silver: 2021, 2019, 2017, 2016, 2013

Gold : 2025 2024, 2023, 2022

Bronze: 2018, 2015, 2014, 2012, 2011, 2010

Fourth Gold Medal for Shankill

Shankill TidyTowns' golden run continues with our 15th successive medal. We have now won four gold, five silver and six bronze.

That's the good news – the reality is that there is clear evidence that Shankill's performance is stagnating, - if we don't move forward, we will probably start to fall back. A close look at the tables below shows that the extent of the emerging problem;

- In 2022, Shankill were 3rd in Dublin behind Dalkey and Skerries. In 2025, we're joint 5th with Swords, behind Malahide and Raheny.
- Our 2025 score of 383 is 31 higher than 2022, the lowest rise of our closest Dublin rivals, with many in the 40s and Rush up by 57.
- Dalkey are now on 399, just one point below this year's winner, Carrick-on-Shannon, and 16 ahead of Shankill. In 2022, we were only 8 behind Dalkey. In 2014 Shankill and Dalkey had the same score. In 2010, Shankill were 4 ahead of Dalkey, who may well win the overall competition in the near future.
- Shankill's score increased by 10 points over last year but in one category, Streetscape,& Public Places, it decreased by 6. Shankill had one other reduction in recent years, by only one point. The adjudicator's report does not give any explanation of this reduction.
- While Shankill retained its gold medal, we did so thanks to a rule change. In previous years, for our population, a score within 15 of the overall winner was required for gold. This increased this year to 20 and Shankill, 17 points behind the winner, retained gold.

Overall, Shankill TidyTowns probably do the basics extremely well. The adjudicator's report offers constructive guidance, particularly on better definition of projects, longer term planning and links to the UN Strategic Development Goals.

Shankill TidyTowns needs your help!

Shankill TidyTowns 2007-2025

Year	National Winner		Shankill		
	Town/Village	Score	Score	Gap	Medal
2007	Aughrim	299	263	36	-
2008	Westport	303	267	36	-
2009	Emly	305	273	32	-
2010	Tallanstown	308	285	23	Bronze
2011	Killarney	310	287	23	Bronze
2012	Abbeyshrule	312	290	22	Bronze
2013	Moynalty	316	296	20	Silver
2014	Kilkenny	321	298	23	Bronze
2015	Letterkenny	323	302	21	Bronze
2016	Skerries	327	309	18	Silver
2017	Birdhill	332	312	20	Silver
2018	Listowel	339	317	22	Bronze
2019	Glaslough	346	326	20	Silver
2021	Ennis	355	339	16	Silver
2022	Trim	366	352	14	GOLD
2023	Abbeyleix	376	361	15	GOLD
2024	Ballincollig	386	373	13	GOLD
2025	Carrick-on-S	400	383	17	GOLD

Dublin TidyTowns 2025

Place	Town/Village	2025	2024	25v 24	2022	25v 22	2022 Place
1	Dalkey	399	384	15	360	39	1
2	Skerries	395	381	14	354	41	2
3	Malahide	394	379	15	347	47	5
4	Raheny	388	374	14	342	46	6
5	Shankill	383	373	10	352	31	3
6	Swords	383	370	13	339	44	9
7	Lucan	380	365	15	342	38	6
8	Foxrock	377	362	15	335	42	10
9	Chapelizod	375	365	10	342	33	6
10	Lusk	367	353	14	334	33	11
11	Rush	365	348	17	309	56	20

Shankill Tidy Towns - Overall Score 2022-2025

Category	Max	2025	2024	2023	2022
Community - Planning & Involvement	80	58	50	49	49
Streetscape & Public Places	80	41	47	45	43
Green Spaces & Landscaping	80	56	54	51	50
Nature & Biodiversity	55	47	45	44	43
Sustainability - Doing more with less	55	25	24	23	22
Tidiness & Litter Control	90	66	65	63	61
Residential Streets & Housing Areas	55	42	41	40	39
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes	55	48	47	46	45
TOTAL	550	383	373	361	352
MEDAL		GOLD	GOLD	GOLD	GOLD

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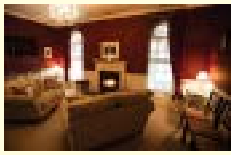

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QUINN'S ROAD, SHANKILL

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Saoire Radaireachta

- Áine Ní Dhufaigh

Naoi mbliana ó shin a thárla sé. Chuaigh mé féin is mo chéile siar go Conamara ar feadh cúpla lá. Bhíomar ag fanacht in áit chiúin suaimhneach, óstán cúig réalta suite ar thaobh locha faoi scáth na Beanna Beola.

Chaitheamar an chéad lá ag siúl sna cnoic agus ag breathnú na radharcanna. Nuair a thángamar arais, bhíomar tuirseach, traochta, agus shuíomar síos cois tine móna i dtolglann na n-aíonna. Ar ndóigh bhíomar ag ól, pionta Guinness aige féin agus gin agus tonic agam.

Tamall beag uainn bhí cúpla eile. Fear meánaosta agus bean i bhfad níos óige ná é. Bhí siad snaidhmthe le chéile ar an tolg, ag caint agus ag cabaireacht go grámhaireach agus ag síor slíocadh agus ag cuimilt a chéile ag an am céanna. Anois is arís d'fháisceadh sé chuig a chroí í. Bhí an dianmhúirniú sin an-chiotach dúinn agus bhí áthas orainn nuair a stop sé.

An teileafón a stop é, teileafón an fhir. Léim sé suas, bhain sé searradh as a ghuaillí, d'fháisc a chuid fiacla, d'fhreagair, agus thosaigh ag caint. Agus dá gcloisfeá é? Labhair sé de ghuth caoin, cneasta. Bhí sé ag síor thuairisciú faoi gach rud sa bhaile. Ba léir dúinn anois gur cliúsaí ceart é agus gur saoire radaireachta a bhí aige anseo i gConamara.

A bhean a ghlaoigh air. Chreid sise go raibh sé ag freastal ar choiste iniúchadh i London. Thosaigh sé anois ag stealladh na mbréag, ag insint cá raibh sé agus cad a bhí ar siúl aige. Bhí sé an-ghnóthach, léachtaí agus cruinnithe ar siúl ó mhaidin go hoíche. Nuair a tháinig sé anonn cheap sé go mbeadh sé réidh le gnothaí an lá céanna agus saor chun dul abhaile. Ach mar a mhínigh sé dí níos luaithe, ní mar sin a bhí. Bhí a lán fadhbanna le réitiú, caint faoi rationalisation, streamlining agus mar sin de. Ní raibh an tÁrdfheidhmiúchán macánta leo. Ní féidir leat muinín a bheith agat as aon duine, an féidir?

Bhí sé an-uaigneach agus brón air nach raibh sé sa bhaile na laethanta seo chun tacú a thabhairt dí. Noah ag déanamh na scrúdaithe béil. Aoife ag seinnt san Inbhear Mór agus gach rud anuas ar a bhean bhocht.

Níor chualamar níos mó. Bhí ár ndinnéar réidh. B'éigean dúinn fágáil. Ach fanann ceist an fhir.

An féidir leat muinín a bheith agat as duine ar bith inniu?

An Ghluais: ***Saoire Radaireachta*** / A flirting holiday; ***na Beanna Beola*** / the Twelve Bens; ***tolglann na n-aíonna*** / the residents' lounge; ***snaidhmthe le chéile*** / i mbaclainn a chéile; ***ag cabaireacht*** / ag geabaireacht; ***ag slíocadh*** / stroking; ***an dianmhúirniú sin*** / that intense caressing; ***an-chiotach*** / very annoying; ***bhain sé searradh as*** / he loosened up; ***d'fháisc*** / gritted; ***cliúsaí*** / flirt; ***iniúchadh*** / audit; ***ag stealladh na mbréag*** / pouring out the lies; ***Feidhmiúchán*** / Executive; ***Inbhear Mór*** / Mannin Bay.

****Áit chruinnithe: Teach Tábhairne Uí Bhradaigh gach Aoine ar a haon déag. Tá fáilte roimh chách.***

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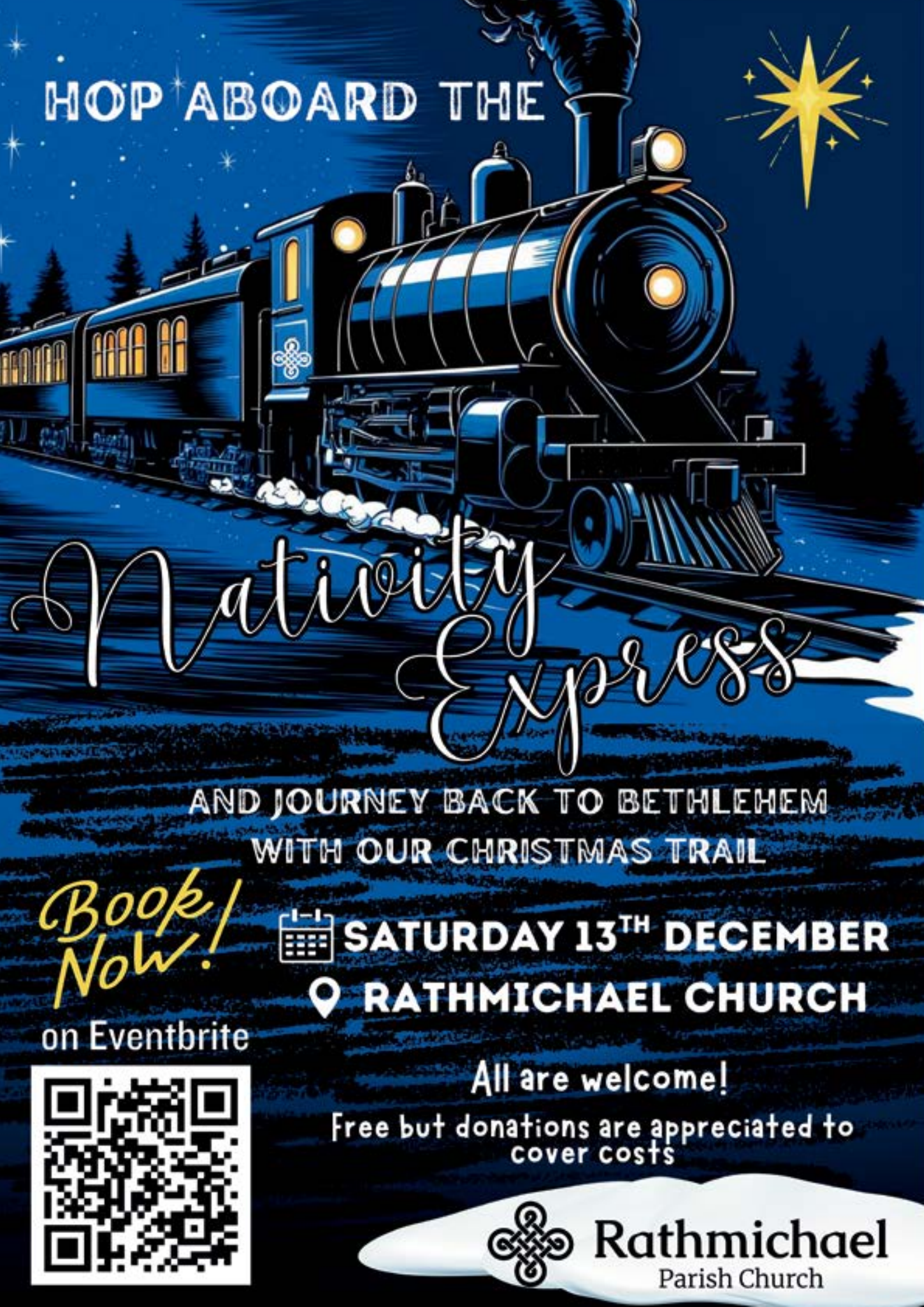
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